Monday, January 26, 2009 -- (Meditation: I Chronicles 17:16) My God and my Father, how wonderful it is to be able to see the world through the eyes of faith! The kingdom of God is as much a reality as the kingdom of this world. It's like having one eye that sees the world's kingdom, while the other eye sees Your kingdom. Both kingdoms are real. Both are near. I live in both. When I look with both eyes, the world's temptations lose some of their allure. Suffering loses some of it's anguish. Hurtful attachments lose some of their grip on me. My sins lose some of their attraction. And death loses its sting. O God, how great Thou art!

Tuesday, January 27, 2009 -- (Meditation: Philippians 1:21) God, help me to be ready to die with grace, so that I may live with joy. Help me to be ready to die without fear, so that I may live with thanksgiving. Help me to be ready to die with acceptance, so that I may live with hope. Help me to be ready to die with outstretched arms, so that I may live with outstretched arms. Help me to be ready to die in peace, so that I may live in peace. Through Jesus Christ, my Lord. Amen.

Wednesday, January 28, 2009 -- (Meditation: Psalm 139:17-18) God, make me humble and childlike when I pray. My mind is too small to grasp the breadth of Your omnipotence. My imagination is too limited to grasp the splendor of Your providence. My heart is too weak to grasp the depth of Your love. I am like a toddler wading in the ocean, unaware of its depth or its perimeter. Help me to have a childlike faith. I praise Your holy name!

Thursday, January 29, 2009 -- (Meditation: Romans 3:23-25) God, Your Word teaches us a great deal about sin, but our culture ignores it. You teach us about our sins of commission -- lying and shading the truth, trusting in self and trusting in things, abusing pills and abusing people, viewing pornography and acting violently -- but our culture pays little attention. You teach us about our sins of omission -- not loving others as ourselves, not feeding the poor or spreading the gospel, being unforgiving and uncaring -- but our culture pays little attention. You teach us about our sins of the heart -- lust and envy, pride and prejudice, anger and hatred -- but our culture pays little attention. God, we are sinners and we cannot save ourselves. Forgive us, for we turn to You in repentance, and faith, and trust. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Friday, January 30, 2009 -- (Meditation: I John 5:11-12) Dear God, my life is like a brief breath or a fleeting shadow. How could You even notice me? That You care what I believe, what I think, and what I do, is hardly imaginable. That You listen to my prayers is unbelievable. That You watch over me is incredible. That the One who made light-years, also made me, is miraculous. That Your Son died for me, and calls me every day to live in faith and eternal life, is mind boggling. Your salvation opens my eyes, opens my heart, and life itself becomes a miracle. God, how could anyone NOT believe in miracles!

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